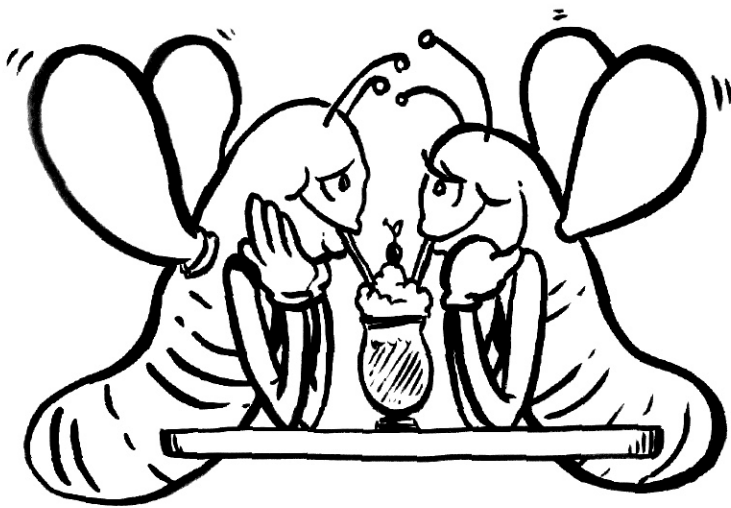


SUCK-A-BUG



Materials

- Small clear plastic containers (2-oz. pill cups with lids work well. You can also use small plastic spice jars, even a plastic test tube)
- Plastic drinking straws or flexible plastic tubing
- Netting or gauze
- Tape
- Hole punch
- Modeling clay

DIRECTIONS

There are many insects to see, and many ways to catch them so you can observe them. Nets work well for large insects, but tiny ones often go unnoticed. One way to catch these small ones is with a Bug Sucker, also called an aspirator. Bug suckers are easy to make, but take some practice to use.

1. Clean the plastic container and remove any labels. Clear containers are better because they allow you to observe insects without opening the container. Whatever you use, make sure to seal the container to keep air from entering.
2. Tape a piece of gauze or netting over one end of the straw or tubing. The netting or gauze is very important – it keeps you from sucking an insect into your mouth!
3. Using a hole punch, make two holes in the top of the container (Figure 1). (If possible, have an adult make holes in the lids ahead of time.) Insert the straw or tubing through one hole with the gauze end in the container and the uncovered end sticking out of the top.
4. Insert a second straw or tubing through the other hole (Figure 2).
5. Seal around both straws with a bit of modeling clay. Be careful not to pinch off the tubing.
6. Place the end of the straw without the gauze next to a small ant or other creature, and gently suck on the other straw (Figure 3). The suction will pull the insect into the container, where you can safely hold and observe it. It takes a little practice to be able to keep the straw next to the insect while sucking on the other end.

Figure 1:

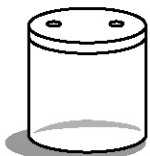


Figure 2:

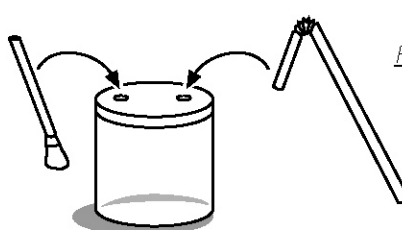


Figure 3:

